

School board members say Early-release now a 'power struggle'

By Holly Edwards
Feature Editor

The dispute between local educators and the Brunswick County school board over abolishment of the Wednesday early-release policy is no longer about what's best for students but is simply a power struggle, some members of the board of education say.

"I'm getting really upset and disappointed that this is not for the children but for power," declared board member Glenda Browning. "If there are things this system has put upon teachers we as a board are sensitive to that. But somewhere along the line someone has gone back into the schools and said we don't care about staff development."

Browning said she has received calls from local educators who say they have been working on alternative scheduling options but have been told by the administration and central office personnel that the school board will not accept alternative options.

"I'm really upset that some people in the central office are speaking for the board," she said. "This isn't over until I say it's over.... There's an ulterior motive here and it has nothing to do with children."

School board chairman Clara Carter said she has been informed that the world in some schools is that "there must not be an agreement with the board of education."

"The NCAE wants to make a court case out of it," she said. "But I have to question if making a case is better

'The NCAE wants to make a court case out of it. But I have to question if making a case is better than the system coming together and agreeing on something.'

Clara Carter
Board chairman

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While the school board has expressed a willingness to discuss alternatives with teachers and principals, the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) is preparing to file suit against the school board unless it capitulates and admits it had no legal basis to abolish the early-release policy.

NCAE attorney Tom Stern said many Brunswick County teachers and principals fear the board is simply "paying lip service" to compromise, but has no intention of chang-

ing its decision.

He also said the early-release policy became part of each school's performance-based accountability plan when it was adopted, and that state law prohibits the board from changing the plans before they come up for renewal next year.

At that time, he said, the board could opt to reject the plans completely, but still could not legally change portions of the plans without the schools' approval.

Students were released early on Wednesday last year so teachers and principals could work on their performance-based accountability plans and conduct staff training.

However, school board members received numerous calls from parents who were angry about the policy, and a majority of board members viewed the policy as academically unsound and disruptive.

The board considered abolishing the policy in mid-year but decided that would be even more disruptive. The policy was eliminated at the end of the last school year, and school board members then asked teachers and principals to develop an alternative plan that would allow them time to implement their plans but would not disrupt the school week.

When the schools submitted a proposed schedule that essentially kept the Wednesday early-release policy intact, the school board rejected the proposal outright.

Teachers and principals say they now have no time to implement their plans to improve student performance and predict that student learning will suffer.

Some educators also point out that the early-release policy allowed them time to conduct school studies required to maintain accreditation.

ABSOLUTELY
LUBY
HOLLINGSWORTH

for
TOWN COUNCIL

"A vote for me is a vote for the citizens of Long Beach. So vote for yourself!"



ELECT
WILLIAM "Bill" CROWE
MAYOR of SOUTHPORT

■ 29-year resident of Southport	■ Member, Southport Lions
■ Former Alderman	■ Southport Fireman
■ Retired civilian fire chief, US Army, Sunny Point	■ American Lung Association, Volunteer of 1995
■ Past President Doshier Hospital Volunteers, Lay Leader for St. Philips Church	■ NC 4th of July Festival Worker
	■ Former Chairman, Brunswick County Solid Waste Commission

"He Wants to Serve You"

MARVIN WATSON

for Mayor of Long Beach

Senior Citizens let me have your ear for a minute!

It is beyond my wildest imagination how the mayor and the council could have cut the funding for the senior citizens \$2500 per year out of the budget. I admire your spunk, your energy and the work you do. In my opinion you should not have to worry about buying a building and paying monthly payments on it when it is for the pleasure and benefit of a large majority of the people of our town. It is my understanding that the present council and mayor did not support your building purchase. I support your buying the building and greatly admire the foresight and initiative in pulling this deal off against heavy opposition. I admire what you did. Therefore, I am proposing (as part of my agenda), with the vote and support of at least three council members to put \$50,000 in next years budget for the senior citizens.

It will be stipulated that you make your payments on the building out of this money and use the balance of this yearly grant for the betterment of all the people of Long Beach as you see fit.

I support and admire you folks greatly. Keep up the good work.

This can be accomplished along with a 10¢-11¢ cut in our tax rate.

MARVIN WATSON FOR MAYOR

Notary public course offered November 1-2

A six-hour notary public class will begin next month at the Brunswick County Courthouse near Bolivia.

The class, sponsored by Brunswick Community College, will instruct individuals on the law, training, procedures and responsibilities of serving the public as a notary.

Brunswick County register of deeds Robert Robinson will conduct the classes.

Classes will be presented on Wednesday and Thursday, November 1-2, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Both classes must be completed.

Students wishing to pay by check will need two separate checks: one for the \$35 registration fee and one for \$7.10 to cover the cost of the "North Carolina Notary Guide-book".

Thank you for your support during the primary.

VOTE
KEVIN BELL

November 7
for
Strong & Experienced
Leadership

Paid for by the candidate, Kevin Bell

Absolutely
Luby
Hollingsworth

- Born and raised in Piedmont, N.C.
- Formal Education: Civil Engineering, N.C. State College
- Four (4) years service in U. S. Navy
- Member of Disabled American Veterans & Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Attend First Baptist Church of Oak Island
- Formerly employed by Binswanger Glass Company
- Began as estimator salesman, later as the Branch Manager of Norfolk, Va., location. This also included two satellite branches at Newport News & Virginia Beach - total of 70 employees
- Have two sons and four grandchildren that reside in Greensboro
- Now retired

After my wife's death in 1983, I made the choice to move to Long Beach. When you decide to build a home and hope to live the balance of your life in that town, you must be proud of that town.

I wish to represent all the taxpayers -- the residents that live and the property owners that reside elsewhere that have no vote in local affairs.

Our churches and businesses provide a great service to the town. They provide many tax dollars to our town's expenses, plus outlets, other than the ocean to our tourist industry. We all enhance the image of a vacation playground.

Long Beach is a great retirement area and needs to provide programs for all age groups -- the youth, middle age and the senior citizens.

If elected my only purpose will be to serve all citizens. Being a retirement community, we are blessed with an enormous amount of citizens from all walks of life. I believe the talents of these people, youth through seniors, could be put to use by our town. I would recommend to council that these talents and expertise of our citizens be utilized in the planning of issues under consideration by the town. I feel the citizens would offer their services at no cost to the town.

Paid for by the candidate, Luby Hollingsworth.

L. B. COUNCIL
MR. FAT CAT

More
"Fat Cat" Facts:

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU'RE GOING TO PAY A SEWER BILL WHILE STILL USING YOUR TRUSTY OLD SEPTIC SYSTEM?

READ ON...

FUNDING ALTERNATIVES FOR SEWER, SUGGESTED BY COUNCIL SELECTED ENGINEERS, BASED ON THE USE OF N. C. GENERAL STATUTES.

FOR SANITARY SEWER:

- **GS 160-209** Tax Revenues from General Fund. General Fund taxes may be used for sewer systems, usually as up-front money or to subsidize enterprise fund.
- Or • **GS 160-A-535** Special Service District Tax. Town can form special districts without a referendum and levy taxes to finance projects such as sanitary sewerage not available in other sections of town.
- Or • **User Fees.** Most feasible and appropriate way to finance but must be set high enough to cover operating and maintenance cost, debt service, debt service reserve, and establish reasonable surplus. Rates would be around \$30(?) monthly and would not be regulated by State Utility Commission.
- Or • **Impact/Facility Fees.** One time charge, needs no legislation. It is usually 2 to 4 times actual cost to provide extra money, thus \$1,000 a lot, which is considered large usually does not raise more than 20% of project cost and is usually used for engineering and permits.

FOR STORMWATER

- **GS 160A-209** Tax Revenues from General Fund. 1983 amendments let property tax use for drainage projects without voter approval and may not benefit all taxpayers.
- Or • **GS 160A-535.** Special Service District Tax. Town can form special districts with- out a referendum and levy additional taxes to finance projects in some districts of town.
- Or • **GS 160A-311 & 214.** User Fees (Stormwater Utility). Used as an enterprise fund and user fees are typically assessed on basis of impervious surfaces with all developed lots receiving bills whether benefiting or not.

THE ABOVE OPTIONS; SENT TO COUNCIL IN AUGUST, 1995, ARE WHAT WE ARE FACING IF THIS COUNCIL GETS REELECTED. CAN YOU AFFORD THIS? NO! DO WE NEED THIS? NO!

ELECT A COMMON-SENSE CANDIDATE.

★★★FRANCES ALLEN★★★

A vote for me is a voice for you!

Paid for by Frances Allen, candidate for Council